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**Linda McCulloch
Superintendent**

DATE: March 19, 2003

TO: School Food Authority Administrators

FROM: Christine Emerson, Director
School Nutrition Programs

SUBJECT: Disclosure of Free and Reduced-Price Eligibility Information

The Statewide Student Assessment for grades 4, 8, and 11 is administered in the spring of every school year. Please see the attached guidance regarding the disclosure of free and reduced-price eligibility information to education officials.

Title I requires that assessment reporting include the free and reduced-price eligibility status of students. The purpose is to assure that those children receive equal educational opportunities. The assessment results will be returned to the schools in aggregate form so that individual students will not be identified.

The statewide student assessment results will be used by Title I to review the school results (not individual results) to determine how groups of students are scoring. The groups include special education students, limited English proficient children, racial minority groups, and students eligible to receive free and reduced-price meals or free milk.

The officials organizing the statewide assessment are aware of privacy requirements, and will provide guidance and training to the test coordinators or administrators who will need to know the eligibility status in order to complete the testing forms.

Please call Holly Humphrey, School Nutrition Programs Specialist, at (406) 444-4413 if you have questions.

Attachment